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The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia. Second Edition. By W. HARRISON MOORE. (Melbourne: Charles F. Maxwell. London: Sweet and Maxwell. Pp. xxviii, 789. 1910.)

This standard work, the second edition of which has recently appeared, furnishes, in the reviewer's judgment, the best judicial commentary upon the constitutional law of the Australian Commonwealth that we possess. Sound and comprehensive legal knowledge, a logical arrangement of material and clearness of statement characterize the work.

Being almost wholly juristic in character the work will not, and is not intended to, occupy the field covered by the encyclopaedic treatise of Quick and Garran, published in 1901, in which, as is well known, the act of 1900 is taken up clause by clause, in, in some cases, word by word and annotated with historical and comparative comments. Professor Moore discusses the constitutional provisions in the light of the judicial interpretations they have received, the exhaustive examination of English and Australian cases being supplemented by numerous references to the adjudications of our own Supreme Court. In some instances these are not the very best that might have been selected, and occasionally an error is found, as, for example, where in reliance upon a statement in *Marbury v. Madison*, it is declared that our inferior federal courts may not be granted original jurisdiction over classes of cases embraced within the constitutionally determined sphere of original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. But in general the author displays an excellent knowledge and appreciation of American public law.

After a brief but excellent historical introduction, successive chapters deal with the general nature of the federal union, the distribution of powers, the organization and powers of the Commonwealth government, the status of the States, their control by the central authority, and the supremacy of commonwealth law. Under the "Finance and Trade," the federal powers with reference to taxation, appropriations, commerce, interstate trade and state railways are discussed in detail. In an appendix are given the texts of important documents, including of course, that of the act of 1900. There is an excellent index.